

Agenda Item No:	6 **
Title and # of Issue:	Forest Vitality - Issue 3
Date of Presentation:	November 2, 2007
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***** This item will be considered by the Board on November 1, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ranch's "Board Room", following the day's field tour and prior to the evening reception at the Running Y Ranch.***

SUMMARY

Oregon Department of Forestry staff recommends that the Board of Forestry approve its Chair signing a joint resolution with the Chair of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission, Chair of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute Board, and the Dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry.

The resolution will formalize respective state agency roles, responsibilities, and priorities for improving the contribution of Oregon's forest cluster to state and local economies and educating Oregonians about the cluster. The resolution also establishes a goal, objectives, and short-term task for developing a State of Oregon Forest Cluster Economic Development Strategy. Finally, the resolution provides direction to the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and Oregon State University College of Forestry to immediately develop and sign a memorandum of agreement consistent with the resolution and to commit the necessary resources and institutional capacity to achieve the goal, objectives, and tasks.

CONTEXT

Governor Kulongoski has directed the Board of Forestry to be the lead agency, in collaboration with Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, for developing a strategy for the sustainability of Oregon's forest sector, including its role in Oregon's future. The Governor charged the Board with developing an action plan to enhance the forest sector's sustainable economic, social, and environmental contributions.

In November 2005, the Board approved the Forest Vitality Work Plan. The Work Plan's goal is:

"To encourage public and private landowners to continue to willingly make investments to create economically and environmentally healthy forests."

Objective 1 of the Work Plan is to:

“Develop forest policies that ensure the sustainability of Oregon’s forest resources while improving the forest sector’s long-term contribution to national, state, and local economies.”

Throughout 2006 and 2007, Department of Forestry staff has coordinated with staff in the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and the OSU College of Forestry to make progress in accomplishing Objective 1 of the Work Plan.

As a result of these efforts, a draft joint resolution and a draft memorandum of agreement have been developed. Once these two documents are agreed to and signed they will provide clear direction to the three agencies and the College of Forestry and provide accountability for achieving many of the Work Plan products and outcomes desired by the Board for Objective 1.

RECOMMENDATION

Oregon Department of Forestry staff recommends that the Board of Forestry approve its Chair signing a joint resolution with the Chair of the Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission, Chair of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute Board, and the Dean of the Oregon State University College of Forestry.

NEXT STEPS

Following the signing of the joint resolution by all parties, Department of Forestry staff will immediately work with the other two state agencies and the College of Forestry to finalize and sign a memorandum of agreement that is consistent with the resolution and execute the provisions of agreement in a timely manner.

The Board will be kept informed, through consent agenda items, on the status of the agreement implementation and will be provided a draft version of the State of Oregon Forest Cluster Economic Development Strategy for consideration. The Board may also be asked to review 2009 legislative concepts needed to implement the strategy.

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) JOINT RESOLUTION: Oregon Economic and Community Development Commission, Oregon Board of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute Board, and Oregon State University College of Forestry/Oregon Forest Research Laboratory
- (2) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT: Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and Oregon State University College of Forestry/Oregon Forest Research Laboratory